

NOTES ON THE MIGRATIONAL FLIGHTS OF
VANESSA CARDUI¹ IN UTAH

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The periodic migrational or dispersional flights of the Painted Lady butterfly, *Vanessa cardui*, have been described and occasionally they have been so noticeable as to have excited comment in the daily press. The following Salt Lake City and Utah flights have been noted.

1924. The butterflies appeared in large numbers on April 13th and were flying in a northerly direction. They were common in all parts of the city, were seen in the downtown section and the flight continued most of the day. They were most numerous the first day at which time many were flying in pairs but for the remainder of the week only single individuals were on the wing. The insects were lighter in color than the usual mid-summer individuals and all were in good condition. With a hand net specimens were easily collected without moving from one spot as fast as it was possible to remove them from the net.

1930. Starting March 30th and continuing for several days the butterflies were seen fairly evenly distributed over the entire city including the downtown district. Three or four to six or eight could be seen in a city block while traveling in a car. After April 10th none were seen in flight.

1931. On May 3rd many light-colored insects were found all over the city and all were flying in a northerly direction. None were mating or hovering about. They were flying in a steady manner from three to twenty feet above the ground in a direct course deviating only to pass obstacles. During the last week of April a similar but larger flight took place but apparently it was much more extensive as it was noticed in other parts of the state.

1935. On May 7th and 8th very large flights were found from Richfield, Utah (Sevier County) north to the point of the mountain at the junction of Salt Lake and Utah counties, a distance of about 100 miles and a smaller flight was observed over Salt Lake City. The insects were flying north in the usual

¹ *Pyrameis cardui* (L)
Cynthia cardui (L) Barnes and Benjamin, 1926
Vanessa cardui (L) Comstock, 1927

steady manner. About the gardens a few individuals (the residents) were flitting about the flowers. In Richfield there was at the same time a flight of *Pieris rapæ*.

These flights were all of light-colored individuals, flying in a northerly direction on the early warm days of spring. The 1924 flight apparently was very extensive as it has been reported as having been observed from the coast of Southern California as far east as Southern Colorado.

PERSONAL NOTES

Certain members of the Pacific Coast Entomological Society are now, or have been, in the field this season for collecting or for scientific research. Dr. Van Dyke spent a part of May and June in Owen's Valley, California, in charge of The University of California's summer class 99 in Entomology, making their headquarters at Lone Pine, Inyo Co. Judging from the fine series of insects he has turned over to the Academy he must have greatly depleted the insect fauna of the Valley. From this region the Academy has had little except the rather extensive series of Hymenoptera and diurnal Lepidoptera taken there by the late Chas. L. Fox, and something over 8,000 insects, mostly Coleoptera and Hemiptera taken by R. L. Usinger and the writer in 1929.

During May the writer collected on the Mojave Desert, working out from Palmdale into Mint Canyon and the Antelope Valley to the west and to Little Rock to the east, with one week's work at Blythe where, however, conditions were too dry and hot for good results. At this writing (July 30) Dr. Van Dyke is working in Northern California and Dr. F. E. Blaisdell at Twain-Harte Lodge, or near there.

Three of the University boys, Mr. E. Gorton Linsley, Mr. Robert Usinger and Mr. Chas. D. Michener, are spending a month in the east visiting some of the more important collections of insects, studying certain groups in which they are interested and comparing specimens with some of the types there. They drove east by auto, visiting collections in Colorado, Kansas, Iowa, Washington, Philadelphia, New York and Boston. They expect to be back in early August.—E. P. Van Duzee.